

# Partner visa (Permanent)

## Overview

### Stay

Permanently.

### Cost

You paid for this visa when you made your applications for the temporary and permanent Partner visas.

### Processing times

For an indication of processing times for this visa, use the [visa processing time guide tool](#). This will show the processing times for recently decided applications. It is a guide only and not specific to your application.

The processing time for a permanent Partner visa starts from the date of eligibility. This is 2 years after you applied for the temporary and permanent Partner visas.

### With this visa you can

In addition to what you can do on your subclass 820 visa, you can:

- live, work and study in Australia indefinitely
- sponsor eligible family members to come to Australia
- apply for [Australian citizenship](#), if eligible.

[See all conditions](#)

[Check your eligibility](#)

### You must

- hold a temporary [Partner visa \(subclass 820\)](#) or [Dependent Child visa \(subclass 445\)](#)
- in most cases, continue to be in a genuine and ongoing relationship with your sponsor.

## Help with your visa

If you are getting help with your visa, make sure you read information on [Who can help with your visa application](#).

### About this visa

## With this visa you can

- live, work and study in Australia
- access Australia's public healthcare scheme, [Medicare](#)
- sponsor eligible family members to come to Australia
- travel to and from Australia for 5 years
- if eligible, attend free English language classes provided by the [Adult Migrant English Program](#)
- if eligible, apply for [Australian citizenship](#).

## How long can you stay

This is a permanent visa.

You become a permanent resident on the day we grant the visa.

## Your obligations

You and your family members must meet all visa conditions and obey Australian laws.

## Travel on this visa

You can travel to and from Australia as many times as you want for 5 years from the date we grant this visa. This is as long as the travel facility on this visa remains valid.

If you want to travel after the initial 5-year travel facility you will need to apply for and be granted a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#) so that you can re-enter Australia as a permanent resident.

To see when your travel facility ends, use [VEVO](#).

## Include family members

You can include your dependent child in your application when you apply for the temporary Partner visa (subclass 820).

To include a dependent child in your permanent Partner visa (subclass 801) application after we have granted you a subclass 820 visa, your child must first apply for a [Dependent child visa \(subclass 445\)](#).

You cannot add any family members after we grant the permanent Partner visa (subclass 801).

### Dependent Child visa (subclass 445) holders

If you have a dependent child who does not hold a subclass 820 visa, you can add them to your permanent Partner visa (subclass 801) application before we make a decision on your permanent visa application.

Your child must hold a [Dependent Child visa \(subclass 445\)](#) and be in Australia.

Once your child holds a subclass 445 visa, complete and attach to your ImmiAccount, [Form 1002 - Application by a subclass 445 dependent child for a permanent partner visa \(932KB PDF\)](#).

After you have attached the form to [ImmiAccount](#), let us know by using the [Partner Processing Enquiry Form](#).

### Newborn children

If you have a baby after you have applied for this visa, you will need to let us know. For more information, see [You had a baby](#).

## Cost

You paid for this visa when you applied for the temporary and permanent Partner visas.

You might have to pay other costs for health or police checks.

## Processing times

The processing time for a permanent Partner visa starts from the date of eligibility. This is 2 years after you applied for the temporary and Permanent partner visas.

We update processing times regularly. We assess all applications on a case by case basis. Complex cases may take longer to process. You should use published processing times as a guideline only.

Your application can take longer to process if:

- you do not fill it in correctly
- you don't include all required documents
- we need more information from you
- it takes time to verify your information.

## Visa label

You will not get a label in your passport. We will digitally link your visa to your passport and create a digital visa record for you.

Eligibility

## Visa requirements

You must hold either a [Partner visa \(subclass 820\)](#) or a [Dependent Child \(subclass 445\)](#) visa.

2 years must have passed since you applied for the subclass 820 and 801 visas for you to be eligible to be assessed for the permanent subclass 801 visa. You can check the date you submitted your applications in [ImmiAccount](#).

We might grant you the permanent subclass 801 visa in less than 2 years if you were in a long-term partner relationship with your sponsor when you applied for the subclass 820 and 801 visas.

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## Continue to meet relationship requirements

You must continue to be the spouse or de facto partner of the same person who sponsored you for the temporary Partner visa.

You might still be eligible for the permanent visa if your relationship ends or your partner dies before we grant the permanent visa. For more information, see [Your relationship has changed](#).

If you are experiencing domestic and family violence, we may be able to help you. You may still be eligible for the grant of your permanent visa. For more information, see [Domestic and family violence and your visa](#).

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## Meet our health requirement

You and any members of the family unit, including dependent children who apply for the visa with you, must continue to meet our [health requirement](#). Family members who do not come with you to Australia might also need to meet our [health requirement](#).

If you had health examinations for your subclass 820 visa, we will let you know if you need to undertake them again or if more health checks are needed.

For more information on health related risks to the Australian community including Polio see [risks to public health](#).

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## Have no debt to the Australian government

If you or any family members owe the Australian government money, you or they must pay it back or arrange to pay it back. This may include family members who do not come with you to Australia.

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## Best interests of the child

We might not grant this visa if it is not in the best interests of an applicant under 18.

Step by step

Step 1

Before you apply

If we granted you a permanent Partner visa (subclass 801) immediately after we granted your temporary Partner visa (subclass 820), you do not have to do anything else. If we did not, you need to provide further documents.

To check which visa you currently hold, use [VEVO](#).

### **Get help with your application**

You can appoint anyone to receive documents on your behalf relating to your visa application.

To appoint someone to receive your correspondence, use [Form 956A Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient \(301KB PDF\)](#).

If you need help with your application, you can appoint someone to give you immigration assistance. A person who gives you immigration assistance can:

- discuss your application with us
- give us information
- send and receive correspondence about your application.

We treat any correspondence they send as if it came from you.

It is important to provide your own contact details in case we need to contact you directly about your application. The partner visa application form will ask you for your own phone number and email address.

If you appoint someone to give you immigration assistance they must be one of the following:

- A [registered migration agent](#).
- A [legal practitioner](#).
- An [exempt person](#).

To appoint someone to provide immigration assistance, use [Form 956 Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person \(308KB PDF\)](#).

For more information, see [who can help you with your application](#).

Step 2

Gather and prepare your documents

You are eligible for consideration of the permanent Partner visa two years after you apply for the temporary and permanent Partner visas. You can check the date you submitted your application in [ImmiAccount](#).

Once two years have passed since you first applied, you can submit your documents for the permanent stage of your Partner visa. Do not send them before this time.

Make sure you provide all required information with your application. Applications with all required information can be processed faster.

Ensure that all information you provide is accurate. As a visa applicant, you must prove your identity and provide true information with your application.

For more information see [Providing accurate information](#).

### **Identity documents**

Provide a copy of the pages of your most recent passport showing your photo, personal details, signature, passport issue and expiry dates.

### **Character documents**

To show that you meet our [character requirements](#) you may need to provide a current Australian police certificate. You usually need to provide this police certificate for the permanent stage of your Partner visa if you did not attach one with your subclass 820 application.

We may ask you to provide a new Australian police certificate if your previous certificate has expired. For immigration purposes, police certificates are valid for 12 months from the issue date.

We only accept complete disclosure National Police Certificates issued by the Australian Federal Police. We do not accept standard disclosure certificates or national police certificates issued by Australian state or territory police.

To get an Australian police certificate see [National Police Checks](#).

You also need to provide an overseas police certificate from any country, including your home country, where you spent a total of 12 months or more since the grant of your 820 visa.

To get an overseas police certificate, see [Offices outside Australia](#).

### **Evidence of your relationship**

You must provide evidence that you continue to be the spouse or de facto partner of the same person who sponsored you for the temporary Partner visa.

In support of your visa application, you can provide:

- relationship documents
- supporting evidence of your relationship.

### **Relationship documents**

Attach to your ImmiAccount a [Commonwealth statutory declaration form](#). This form must be completed by your sponsor with information about any of the following:

- Whether you and your spouse or de facto partner have a mutual commitment, to the exclusion of all others.
- Whether your relationship is genuine and continuing.
- Whether you live together or don't live permanently apart.
- When your relationship began and how long you have lived together for.
- The financial commitments you and your partner share.
- The nature of your household (including any joint responsibility for the care and support of children).
- The social aspects of your relationship.
- The nature of your commitment to each other.
- Your plans for the future.

If you are married, provide your marriage certificate or other evidence that your marriage is valid in Australia.

If you are a de facto partner, provide proof of your de facto relationship.

### **Supporting evidence of your relationship**

To show you are still in a relationship with your spouse or de facto partner, you can provide the below supporting evidence of your relationship.

#### **Finances**

Evidence you and your partner share financial matters. This evidence can include:

- joint mortgage or lease documents
- joint loan documents for major assets like homes, cars or major appliances
- joint bank account statements
- household bills in both names.

## **Your household**

Evidence you and your partner share domestic matters. This evidence can include:

- a statement about how you share housework
- household bills in both names
- mail or emails addressed to you both
- documents that show joint responsibility for children
- documents that prove your living arrangements.

## **Social matters**

Evidence that others know about your relationship.

You must provide statements from 2 witnesses who:

- are 18 years old or older
- know you and your spouse or partner
- know about your relationship.

Statements from witnesses can be done by completing [Form 888 - Supporting statement in relation to a Partner or Prospective Marriage visa application \(1027KB PDF\)](#).

If the witness is an Australian citizen or permanent resident, provide evidence of this such as a passport or birth certificate.

Evidence can also include:

- joint invitations or evidence you go out together
- proof you have friends in common
- proof you have told government, public or commercial bodies about your relationship
- proof you do joint sporting, cultural or social activities together
- proof you travel together.

## **Commitment**

Evidence you are committed to a long-term relationship with each other. This evidence must show that you:

- have knowledge of each other's background, family situation or other personal details.
- have combined your personal matters
- stay in touch when apart
- are not related by family.

You can also provide the terms of your wills as evidence.

### **Family members**

For every family member who currently holds a subclass 820 or 445 visa, provide copies of:

- their passport
- documents that show changes to their situation
- police certificates, if applicable, for dependents 16 years old or older.

### **Tell us if your details have changed**

See here for changes to your [contact details, address](#) or [passport](#)

### **Changes to your situation**

Things you need to let us know about include:

- changes to your marital or de facto status
- the birth of a child
- any other changes relevant to your application
- a request to withdraw your application.

For more information, see [Change in your situation](#).

If you are unable to upload the relevant documents to your application in ImmiAccount, you need to contact us using the [Partner Processing Enquiry Form](#).

### **Prepare your documents**

#### **Translate**

Have all documents translated into English.

Provide original and translated documents in your application.

Translators in Australia must be accredited by the [National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters](#).

Translators outside Australia do not have to be accredited. But on each translation, they must include their:

- full name
- address and telephone number
- qualifications and experience in the language they are translating.

These details must be in English.

### **Scan or photograph**

Scan or photograph all documents (English and non-English) in colour.

The scans and photos must be clear enough to read.

If a document is more than one page, save it all as one file.

You do not need to have any documents certified.

### Step 3

#### **Apply for the visa**

You are eligible for consideration of the permanent Partner visa two years after you apply for the temporary and permanent Partner visas.

Once two years have passed since you first applied, you can submit your documents for the permanent stage of your Partner visa. Do not attach them before this time.

### **Using our website and protections to your privacy**

We take our obligation to protect your privacy seriously. We provide a secure online environment, but you can do more to ensure your personal safety online:

- Make sure you give us your contact details when you apply for your visa and [tell us if they have changed](#). We may need to contact you directly even if you have:
  - nominated your sponsor's email address for all electronic correspondence
  - appointed your sponsor or someone else to receive your correspondence as your authorised recipient
  - appointed someone to give you immigration assistance.
- Protect your [ImmiAccount](#), email account and passwords. Don't share them with anyone.

For more information see [Using our website](#).

### **How to apply**

1. Login to [ImmiAccount](#).
2. Select 'New application'.
3. Select 'Family'.
4. Select 'Stage 2 - Permanent Partner Visa Assessment'.
5. Complete your application.
6. [Attach supporting documents](#) to your completed application.

Attach a document only once, even if you are using it to show more than one thing.

Clearly label your documents.

Keep a copy of your completed application.

You can attach up to 100 documents for each person on your application.

The attachment limit cannot be increased.

If you reach the attachment limit for an applicant, you can attach more documents to other clients on the application.

### **Frequently asked questions**

You can find the answers to common questions about this visa at [Partner Program Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

#### Step 4

After you apply

You can track and manage your application using [ImmiAccount](#).

For help managing your application in ImmiAccount, see [Applying online in ImmiAccount](#).

### **Status updates**

To help ensure your application is processed as quickly as possible, attach all necessary supporting documents to your application. The checklist provided on [Applying online in ImmiAccount](#) will help in making sure you include all required documents in your application.

If it is within standard processing times do not contact us. We cannot provide any further updates on your application's progress. You can see if we have asked for more information in your [ImmiAccount](#).

To see standard processing times for this visa see [Global processing times](#).

You can find the answers to common questions about this visa at [Partner Program Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

### **Attach more information**

If you did not attach all documents when you applied, attach them as soon as you can in [ImmiAccount](#).

We might ask you to provide more information.

For more information on attaching documents in ImmiAccount, see [Applying online in ImmiAccount](#).

If you are unable to upload the relevant documents to your application in ImmiAccount, you need to contact us using the [Partner Processing Enquiry Form](#).

### **Add family members**

You can add a dependent child to your application before we make a decision on your permanent visa application. Your child must be in Australia and:

- hold a [Dependent Child visa \(subclass 445\)](#)
- meet our [health requirement](#)
- meet our [character requirement](#) if they are 16 years old or older.

Once your child holds a subclass 445 visa, complete and attach to your ImmiAccount, [Form 1002 - Application by a subclass 445 dependent child for a permanent partner visa \(932KB PDF\)](#).

After you have attached the form to ImmiAccount, let us know by using the [Partner Processing Enquiry Form](#).

## **Newborn children**

If you have a baby, you will need to let us know. For more information, see [You had a baby](#).

After you have updated us in ImmiAccount, let us know by using the [Partner Processing Enquiry Form](#).

### **Tell us if your details have changed**

See here for changes to your [contact details, address](#) or [passport](#)

### **Tell us if things change**

Tell us if things change after you lodge your documents but before we have made a decision.

Things you need to let us know about include:

- changes to your marital or de facto status
- the birth of a child
- any other changes relevant to your application.

For more information, see [Change in your situation](#).

If you are unable to upload the relevant documents to your application in ImmiAccount, you need to contact us using the [Partner Processing Enquiry Form](#).

### **If your relationship ends**

You may need to complete the Notification of Relationship Cessation form in ImmiAccount.

To confirm, check [Your relationship has changed](#).

## **Your online safety**

To ensure your personal safety online we recommend that you:

- change your [ImmiAccount](#) password as soon as possible.
- do not use saved passwords to access your ImmiAccount

- change your email password or consider setting up a new email account.

To see how you can increase your personal safety you can use the [eSafety Commissioner's online safety checklist](#)

If you do not have access to ImmiAccount, you can notify us using the [Partner Processing Enquiry Form](#).

You might still be eligible for the permanent visa if your relationship ends or your partner dies. All information you provide is confidential.

If you are experiencing domestic and family violence, we may be able to help you. You may still be eligible for the grant of your permanent visa. For more information, see [Domestic and family violence and your visa](#).

### **No longer need help with your application**

Let us know if you no longer want someone to:

- receive your correspondence - complete [Form 956A Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient](#)
- provide immigration advice - complete [Form 956 Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person](#).

After you have attached the form to ImmiAccount, let us know by using the [Partner Processing Enquiry Form](#).

For more information, see [Who can help you with your application](#).

### **Mistakes on your application**

Let us know as soon as you can if you have made a mistake on your application.

For more information, see [After you apply](#).

If you are unable to update your application in ImmiAccount, you need to contact us using the [Partner Processing Enquiry Form](#).

## Step 5

### Visa outcome

You can be in or outside Australia when we decide on your permanent Partner visa.

We will let you know our decision in writing.

If we grant your visa, we will tell you:

- your visa grant number
- the date your visa starts
- your visa conditions.

Keep a copy of the decision.

If we refuse your visa, we will tell you why we refused the visa and whether you have a right to a review of the decision.

We will not refund the application fee if we refuse your application.

When you have this visa

## What you can do on this visa

- live, work and study in Australia
- access Australia's public healthcare scheme, [Medicare](#)
- sponsor eligible family members to come to Australia
- travel to and from Australia for 5 years
- if eligible, attend free English language classes provided by the [Adult Migrant English Program](#)
- if eligible, apply for [Australian citizenship](#).

## How long you can stay

This is a permanent visa.

You become a permanent resident on the day we grant the visa.

For more information, see [Permanent resident](#).

## What you must do on this visa

You and your family members must meet all visa conditions and obey all Australian laws.

## Travel on your visa

You can travel to and from Australia as many times as you want for 5 years from the date we grant this visa. This is as long as the travel facility on this visa remains valid.

If you want to travel after the initial 5-year travel facility you will need to apply for and be granted a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#). This will allow you to travel to Australia as a permanent resident.

To see when your travel facility ends, use [VEVO](#).

## New Zealand passport holders

If an immigration officer processes your clearance at our border, tell them:

- you have a permanent Australian visa
- you do not want a Special Category visa (subclass 444).

If you do not tell them, you might be granted a 444 visa. Grant of a subclass 444 visa will override your permanent visa and might affect your eligibility for Australian citizenship.

## Sponsor your family members to come to Australia

You cannot add family members to your visa application after we grant the permanent Partner visa (subclass 801).

As an Australian permanent resident, you might be able to sponsor eligible family members to come to Australia.

To find a visa for your family members, [explore visa options](#).

## Prove you have a visa

To prove you have a visa and show your conditions to someone, use [VEVO](#).

Australian visas are digital. We do not put a visa label in your passport. Instead, we link your digital visa record to your passport.

Your visa number is contained in your visa grant letter. Use this number to access your digital visa record in [VEVO](#).

Your digital visa record is also used by:

- airlines to check your visa before you board your flight
- Australian government agencies to check your identity and visa conditions
- employers, banks or other registered organisations to check your visa conditions.

To get proof of your travel in and out of Australia, [request your international movement records](#).

## Working

With this visa you will have full work rights and be protected by Australian workplace law. See your [workplace rights and entitlements](#).

## Studying

With this visa you will be able to study in Australia. To find out what study you may be eligible for see [StudyAssist](#).

## Access Australian Government benefits

You might have to wait to access certain Australian Government payments and benefits. Learn more about newly arrived residents' waiting periods from [Services Australia](#).

## Tell us if things change

Let us know if you get a new passport.

See what to do if [you have a new passport](#).

## Become an Australian citizen

After a certain time, you may be eligible for Australian citizenship. Find out more about [becoming a citizen](#).

For citizenship purposes, your permanent residency starts on either the day your visa was granted if you were in Australia or the day you first entered Australia on this visa after it was granted.

## For Sponsors

### Overview

#### Stay

The visa applicant can stay permanently in Australia.

#### Cost

No cost.

#### Processing times

For an indication of processing times for this visa, use the [visa processing time guide tool](#). This will show the processing times for recently decided applications. It is a guide only and not specific to your application.

#### With this sponsorship

- you can have your spouse or partner live, work and study in Australia indefinitely

[See all conditions](#)

[Check your eligibility](#)

#### You must

- be the same person who sponsored the applicant for their temporary partner visa
- continue to be married or in a de facto relationship with them

• About this visa

## Your obligations

You must sponsor your partner and their family members included in their application.

As a sponsor, you must assist your partner and their family members included in their application financially and with their accommodation.

## Cost

No cost.

## How long sponsorship lasts

When your sponsorship ends will depend on where the visa applicants are when we grant their temporary partner visa.

Your sponsorship will end 2 years after:

- the visa is granted, if the applicants are in Australia at the time of grant, or
- their next arrival in Australia, if they are outside Australia at the time of grant.

This is the case even if we grant their permanent partner visa straight after their temporary partner visa.

## Apply to sponsor

You can be inside or outside Australia when you apply for sponsorship.

Eligibility

## Continue to be the applicant's spouse or de facto partner

You must continue to be the spouse or de facto partner who sponsored the applicant for the temporary partner visa.

We must approve the sponsorship. This approval will be given during the processing of the applicant's temporary visa.

### Step by step

#### Step 1

##### Provide your documents

You do not need to submit another application for sponsorship. However, you will need to provide additional documents.

Attach, to your ImmiAccount, the personal details page of your most recent passport (showing your signature), or your Australian driver's licence.

Also attach a completed [Commonwealth statutory declaration form](#) with information about any of the following:

- Whether you and your partner have a mutual commitment with your spouse or de facto partner to the exclusion of all others.
- Whether your relationship is genuine and continuing.
- Whether you live together or don't live permanently apart.
- When your relationship began and how long you have lived together for.
- The financial commitments you and your partner share.
- The nature of your household (including any joint responsibility for the care and support of children).
- The social aspects of your relationship.
- The nature of your commitment to each other.
- Your plans for the future.

### When you are a sponsor

## Your obligations

You must sponsor your partner and their family members included in their application.

As a sponsor, you must assist your partner and their family members included in their application financially and with their accommodation.

## How long your sponsorship lasts

When your sponsorship ends will depend on where the visa applicants are when we grant their temporary partner visa.

Your sponsorship will end 2 years after:

- the visa is granted, if the applicants are in Australia at the time of grant, or
- their next arrival in Australia, if they are outside Australia at the time of grant.

This is the case even if we grant their permanent partner visa straight after their temporary partner visa.

## Tell us if things change

If your situation has changed, you need to tell us. For more information see [Changes in your situation](#).

## Withdraw your sponsorship

You cannot withdraw as a sponsor after we grant the visa. For more information, see [Your relationship has ended](#).

If you are experiencing domestic and family violence, there is support available. For more information, see [Family Violence Provisions](#).